

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully acknowledges the office action dated August 8, 2005 and herewith files this response thereto. Appreciation is expressed for the examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicant has canceled all of the claims containing subject matter covered by the prior art rejections, and respectfully requests the expeditious issuance of a notice of allowance.

In the office action, the examiner indicated that claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from rejected claims. Accordingly, the claims have been rewritten as follows:

Claims 1, 2 and 3 have been canceled and rewritten as new claim 21.

Claim 4 has been canceled and has been combined along with claim 1 as new claim 22.

Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled and have been combined with claim 1 as new claim 23.

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled and combined with claim 1 as new claim 24.

Claims 9, 10 and 11 have been canceled and have been replaced with new claim 25. Claim 12 is now amended to depend from allowable claim 25.

Claims 13–20 have now been canceled from the application.

It should be understood that the cancellation of the claims is without prejudice to applicant's right to capture the subject matter thereof in one or more follow-up applications.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 18 and 20 have been objected to by the examiner because of numerous informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that it has overcome

these informalities. Accordingly, the objections to claim 1 (now canceled and rewritten along with claims 2 and 3 as claim 21) have been resolved as follows:

In step b) of claim 1, "the simulated behavior of design models" has been changed in step c) of claim 21 to --design model simulations-- to overcome the lack of an antecedent. This simulation feature is described at page 12, line 20, through page 14, line 2 of the specification and by the symbol 128 of Figure 2.

In step c) of claim 1 [now step d) of claim 21], "the traces of the simulation generated by the verification process" has been reworded to overcome the lack of an antecedent. This feature is described at page 13, line 9, through page 14, line 2 of the specification.

In step d) of claim 1, "the simulation database" has been changed to --the simulation traces database-- in step e) of claim 21 per the examiner's suggestion. This feature is 136 in Figure 2, and is described at page 13, line 9, through page 15, line 10 of the specification.

In step e), "the test generators and engineers" has been changed to --the test generator, and designers and verification engineers-- in step f) of claim 21 to address the examiner's objection. This language conforms to the functions of 110 and 120 of Figure 2, which are described at page 11, line 16, to page 12, line 7 of the specification.

In step f) of claim 1, [now step g) in claim 21] "the test program database" has been changed to --the test programs database-- as proposed by the examiner. This feature is described in the first paragraph on page 17 of the specification.

In step g) of claim 1 [now step h) of claim 21], the expression "all functional coverage analysis data" has been changed to --analysis logs and traces-- and is more fully described between page 19, line 3, and page 21, line 9, and is shown in Figure 2 as item 166.

In step h) of claim 1, [now step j) in claim 21], "the coverage models" are discussed at page 16, lines 18–22, and are shown as items 154 and 158 in Figure 2.

In step l) of claim 1 [now step m) in claim 21], the objection to "a coverage analysis program" has been overcome by using the word "program", and "architectural coverage models" has been changed to --architectural and microarchitectural coverage models-- to conform more closely to page 16, lines 18 – 22 of the specification and items 154 and 158 of Figure 2.

In step m) of claim 1 [now step n) of claim 21], "the created coverage models" has been changed to --the created architectural and microarchitectural coverage models--.

Claim 4 has now been rewritten as independent claim 22 wherein the claim language has been changed from "the capability of providing" to --providing--, in conformity with the examiner's suggestion.

Claim 5, "the coverage analysis" has been changed to --the coverage analysis program-- in element l) of claim 22.

Claim 6, "the coverage analysis environment" is referred to generally as 150 in Figure 2, and has been changed to the --architectural and microarchitectural models-- for clarification. These models are discussed at page 16, lines 13–22, and page 18, line 10, through page 19, line 2. They are identified by the symbols 154 and 158 in Figure 2.

Claim 8, "using these as input", has been changed to --using said machine readable coverage analysis models-- in element o) of claim 24 to be more specific. This is described more fully at page 23, line 10, through page 24, line 11 of the specification.

Claim 9, in step b), "the design models" has been changed in new claim 25 to read -- design model simulations -- for clarification following the examiner's recommendation.

In step c) of claim 8, now claim 25, "the test program database" has been changed in element c) of claim 25 to --the test programs database--, again pursuant to the examiner's suggestion.

In step d) of claim 8, [now element e) of claim 25], "storing the models" has been changed to --storing the created models --.

In claim 10 (erroneously referred to as claim 9 by the examiner) "the optimized test specs" has been changed to --optimized test specification-- in element a) of claim 25, to provide proper antecedence.

Claim 12, "these tests" has been changed to --the deterministic tests-- as proposed by the examiner.

Claim 18, which was also objected for many of the same reasons as in the objection of claim 1, has now been canceled.

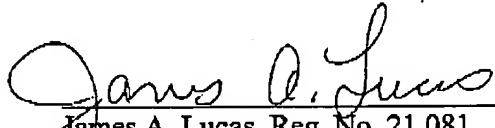
The objection to claim 20 is moot in view of the cancellation of this claim.

It is believed that all of the claims now in the application are distinguishable one from the other and over the prior art.

Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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